


strings in the second list in order beginning with the string having the greatest likelihood of matching the spoken string received in step (a); and

 (i) selecting as the recognized string the first string in the said list generated in step (b) matching one of the hypothesized digit strings of said second list.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 5, 2000. Claims 1-5, 7, 13-16 and 18 are now pending in this application. Claims 6, 8-12, 17 and 19-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,122,612 (Goldberg).

Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a method of recognizing a spoken digit string. The method includes the steps of receiving the spoken digit string, analyzing the spoken digit string to generate a list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the spoken digit string, determining whether individual hypothesized strings of said list

satisfy a given constraint, using a given knowledge based recognition strategy, and selecting the first string in the list satisfying the constraint as the recognized string. If none of the hypothesized digit strings satisfy the constraint, the method further includes the steps of prompting entry of a second spoken digit string, analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string, and selecting the recognized string in accordance with a comparison of the first and the second list.

Goldberg, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a checksum based method for performing speech recognition. In the method of Goldberg, if no match can be determined an error message is provided to the user. The user may also be prompted to reenter the identifier again to re-start the process over. (See col. 5, lines 6-9).

Nothing has been found, however, in Goldberg that teaches or suggests the comparison step as recited in Claim 1, in particular, prompting entry of a second spoken digit string, analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string, and selecting the recognized string in accordance with a comparison of the first and the second list. While Goldberg may be deemed to


teach re-entering the identifier and re-stating the process, this is not seen to teach or suggest the comparison as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, at least for these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

The other claims in this application are dependent from Claim 1 discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Naemi Chapa

Appendix: Marked-up Claim Amendments

1. (Twice Amended) A method of recognizing a spoken digit string, comprising:

- (d) receiving the spoken digit string;
- (e) analyzing the spoken digit string to generate a list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the spoken digit string;
- (f) determining whether individual hypothesized strings of said list satisfy a given constraint, using a given knowledge based recognition strategy; [and]
- (d) selecting the first string in the list satisfying the constraint as the recognized string,

if none of the hypothesized digit strings satisfy the constraint,

- (e) prompting entry of a second spoken digit string;
- (f) analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string; and
- (g) selecting the recognized string in accordance with a comparison of the first and the second list.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 [further comprising:
if none of the hypothesized digit strings satisfy the
constraint:

- (e) prompting entry of a second spoken digit string:
- (f) analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order

based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string;]
wherein step (g) comprises:

([g]h) determining whether individual hypothesized strings of the second list match one of the hypothesized digit strings in the list generated in step (b) in order beginning with the string having the greatest likelihood of matching the second spoken string; and

([h]i) selecting as the recognized string the first string in the second list matching one of the hypothesized digit strings generated in step (b).

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 [further comprising:
if none of the hypothesized digit strings satisfy the
constraint:

(e) prompting entry of a second spoken digit string:

(f) analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string;]
wherein step (g) comprises:

([g]h) determining whether individual hypothesized strings of the list generated in step (b) match one of the hypothesized digit strings in the second list in order beginning with the string having the greatest likelihood of matching the spoken string received in step (a); and

([h]i) selecting as the recognized string the first string in the said list generated in step (b) matching one of the hypothesized digit strings of said second list.